



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**



POLICY NUMBER	
OPR: 53	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/20/2012	ORIGINAL ISSUED ON: 04/20/2012
REVISION NO: ORIGINAL	

**SUBJECT: STATE POLICE PISTOL TEAM**

## **1.0 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards, procedures, and guidelines for the application, selection process for membership, and for the utilization of the New Mexico State Police Pistol Team.

## **2.0 POLICY**

It is the policy of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety to maintain a highly flexible pistol/shooting team for training, competition shooting, and for the operation of specialized assignments.

## **3.0 APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to all commissioned officers of the Department of Public Safety.

## **4.0 REFERENCES**

- A. CALEA Chapter 1 – Law Enforcement Role and Authority**
- B. CALEA Chapter 33 – Training and Career Development**

## **5.0 DEFINITIONS**

- A. Pistol Team** – A specialty team that provides support to the New Mexico Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement agencies. The team consists of the State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander, an operations commander and team members. The pistol team will function primarily as a unit that supports the New Mexico State Police. Other government entities may request its assistance.
- B. Pistol Team Member** – A New Mexico State Police officer assigned to the pistol team, who is required to be on permanent status and have a minimum of two (2) years satisfactory service.

## **6.0 PROCEDURE**

The New Mexico State Police Pistol Team will be utilized to provide firearms training and to participate in firearms competitions. The pistol team will be available to the State Police and other police agencies within New Mexico. All operations by the Pistol Team will be approved by the State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander.

### **A. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Train commissioned officers in various law enforcement firearms shooting exercises.
2. Participate in pistol or firearms shooting competitions in and out of New Mexico as approved by the Chief or his designee.

**B. APPLICANT PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA**

1. Must have completed two (2) years of satisfactory service as a State Police officer, and must be on permanent status.
2. Must qualify with a 93 percent or better with all authorized duty firearms.
3. Must possess a desire to pursue and accomplish the goals of the State Police and the pistol team.
4. Must have a satisfactory work ethic in his/her current duty assignment. Appointment to the pistol team, with past or present disciplinary action, is at the discretion of the Chief.

**C. QUALIFICATION/SELECTION**

The applicant is required to pass each of the following firearms qualifications.

1. A minimum of 93 percent or higher with their authorized duty handgun, rifle and shotgun utilizing the current departmental daytime qualification courses.
2. Complete the NRA 48 round service gun match.
3. The two handgun courses fired (NRA service gun and State Police day qualification) will be added together for a combined final score.
4. Weapons manipulation test.
5. The combined handgun score will make up the final list for selection. The top shooters in ranking order by total score will be considered for placement onto the pistol team. Recommendations will be made through the pistol team operations commander and State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau Commander to the Chief. The Chief has the final approval.

**D. MEMBERSHIP**

1. New members will be placed on probationary status for a period of not less than two (2) years. Any member who fails to demonstrate acceptable performance during the probationary period may be removed from the pistol team at the recommendation of the pistol team operations commander and the concurrence of the State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander.
2. Members of the pistol team must be willing to make a long term commitment to the team for a minimum of three (3) years, unless exigent circumstances exist. The pistol team operations commander, with the agreement of the State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander, must approve any exception to this rule.
3. Pistol team members will be required to obtain an NRA PPC shooting classification within the first year on the pistol team.
4. All members will be encouraged to attend at least three in-state NRA sanctioned PPC shooting matches per year. This is excluding any major shooting competitions such as the New Mexico/Colorado State Championships and the National Championship. Attendance at those matches will be upon approval of the Chief or his designee.
5. All active team members must maintain at least a 93 percent qualification score on all duty issued firearms. In the event that any member fails to qualify at 93 percent with the department firearms, the team member must notify the operations commander within forty-eight (48) hours of testing/qualification. A member who has



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not satisfactorily met the firearms qualifications will be temporarily placed on inactive status. The team member must meet the firearms qualifications standards within thirty (30) days on inactive status. Should the member fail to meet those standards, the member will be removed from the pistol team. The State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander will be informed of the member's status.

6. All active members must maintain a "meets performance" rating on their most recent evaluation in their assigned district.
7. Personnel selected for the pistol team must demonstrate an above-average performance in the following areas:
  - a. Care of equipment.
  - b. Attendance.
  - c. Personal contacts with fellow officers and the public.
  - d. District/Section work ethic.
8. Members completing two (2) years of satisfactory service with the pistol team may, at their discretion, display the pistol team patch.
  - a. While wearing the class "A" uniform, the patch will be displayed on the right sleeve, 1/8 inch above the instructor patch or where the instructor patch would be located.
  - b. Members that resign from the pistol team prior to three (3) years of membership will **NOT** be allowed to display the pistol team patch on their class "A" uniform.
9. The State Police pistol team will consist of no more than 7 members to include a pistol team operations commander.

### E. PISTOL TEAM WEAPONS

1. The pistol team will issue special weapons at the discretion of the pistol team operations commander. These weapons will be issued and maintained by the pistol team or department armor.
2. Personally owned weapons may be used as long as they meet department and competition guidelines.

### F. TRAINING

1. All personnel will attend in-service training.
2. Specialized training outside the Department of Public Safety will take place as allowed by budgetary constraints. Training will be oriented toward physical and weapon skills.
3. All members will participate in proficiency/advanced training as scheduled. Training dates will be assigned by the pistol team operations commander as approved by the State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander.

### G. PISTOL TEAM ORGANIZATION

1. State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander – The Chief will assign the Training and Recruiting Bureau commander to command and oversee all activities of the pistol team.

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2. Pistol team operations commander - The pistol team operations commander will be assigned by the State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander, and will be approved by the Chief of the State Police. The pistol team operations commander will be a member selected from within the ranks of the pistol team.

### H. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The pistol team operations commander will:
  - a. Report directly to the State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander, or his designee, on matters concerning the pistol team.
  - b. Manage pistol team training, competitions and other deployments with the concurrence of the State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander.
  - c. Manage the pistol team budget.
  - d. Make recommendations to the State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander and the Chief on matters regarding selection, discipline, and removal of pistol team personnel.
  - e. Assign personnel to specialty areas of the team, with approval of the State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander.
  - f. Perform other duties as assigned by the State Police Training and Recruiting Bureau commander or the Chief of the State Police.
  - g. Coordinate team training.
  - h. Coordinate personnel selection process.
2. Pistol team members will:
  - a. Obey all lawful orders issued by the pistol team operations commander.
  - b. Maintain a high degree of physical and mental readiness.
  - c. Ensure all department-issued and personal equipment is clean, properly maintained, and functional.
  - d. Submit current firearms qualification scores to the commander.
  - e. Perform other duties as assigned.

### I. DISCIPLINARY STANDARDS/REMOVAL

1. Membership in the pistol team is a privilege and not a promotion. Pistol Team membership does not come with property rights.
2. To maintain team integrity and the highest level of standards, the Chief of the State Police may remove any personnel member from the team. All personnel are subject to disciplinary action, and may be removed from the team without cause.

## 7.0 ATTACHMENTS

NONE

## 8.0 APPROVAL

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ s/ Gorden E. Eden Jr. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ April 20, 2012  
DPS Cabinet Secretary